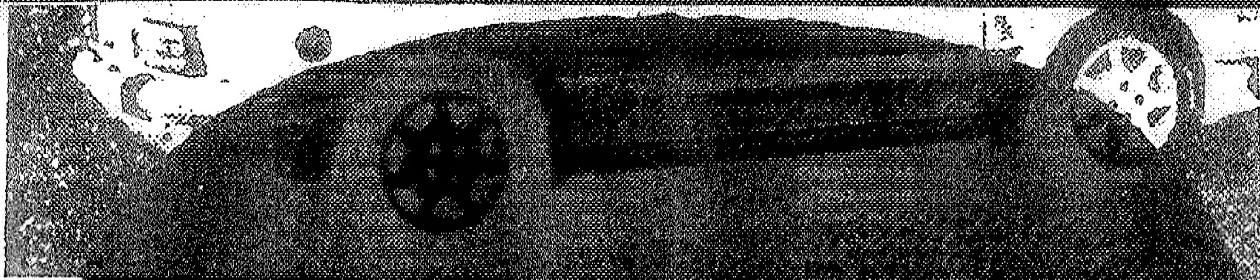


CLASS THE WAR

THE HEAVY STUFF



TARGET... an Escort RS turbo, worth £13,000



TARGET... a BMW 3 Series, worth £14,000



TARGET... a Mercedes 380, worth £30,000



CLASS

WAR

THE HEAVY STUFF

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The views expressed in the articles are the views of the person who wrote the article and not necessarily that of the Class War Federation.

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introduction

The standing of a candidate in the Kensington Bye-Election by London Class War surprised a lot of people.

Though it would be wrong to say that everyone in Class War is an anarchist, Class War has always been seen as an anarchist organisation... the standing of prospective parliamentary candidates is not normally the type of activity associated with anarchist groups!

First of all, don't panic! we haven't suddenly come to the blinding realisation that there is a parliamentary road to anarchism, socialism or whatever, or even that having class War's MP wandering the corridors of Westminster would be in any way a particularly good thing - all the way through the 'campaign' we always stated in no uncertain terms exactly what we thought of the parliamentary system and our so-called elected representatives.

So why did we do it? You may well ask!....well here goes....

The traditional anarchist response to elections since the year dot has been to ignore them, hoping they'll go away, or a series of unimaginative, uninspiring don't vote campaigns. The greatest success of these campaigns (on the odd occasion that somebody actually notices them) is to remind people that elections are in fact taking place - it's pretty unlikely to say the least that any punter with even the vaguest intention of paying a visit to the polling station will be persuaded to stay at home instead on the promise that their abstentionism is somehow going to hasten some mythical anarchist utopia.

Elections are totally irrele-

vant to the class struggle, but ignoring them won't make them go away (any more than the odd 'don't vote' sticker will). By getting in the thick of it we were able to say 'that all politicians are bastards and that voting for any of them won't do the working class any good' and people actually heard it for once - the media made sure of that. And more importantly it gave us the chance to actually get across an alternative to thousands of people who'd never heard of, let alone read Class War or any other revolutionary paper. That power shouldn't come from ballot boxes, but from ordinary working class people taking

Gang chases Tory from poll meeting

AN ANGRY mob chased a Tory by-election candidate from a polling station meeting last night.

He and his supporters managed to get into the campaign battle bus but not before the voters had already been kicked.

Tory Dudley Fishburn drove away, shaken but unharmed, as police in riot gear closed in and forced him out of the bus.

The rioting ended in the early morning in the West London Kensington bye-election.

Mr Fishburn and the Labour and Liberal candidates were pelted as they stepped off the bus outside the Economic Centre in Kensington High Street. Much of the heckling came from the Class War supporters.



Fishburn escaped
After Mr Fishburn and the SDP and SDF canvassers had got off the bus, Fishburn and his supporters had no time to go. As the Tory group was leaving, the crowd of supporters and some of the crowd outside the Economic Centre in Kensington High Street attacked them.

The group then chased

Mr Fishburn to his van.

Initially and locked the door. Miss Holmes, who chaired the meeting for the SDP and SDF at the Economic Centre, said he was "very angry and undermined".

"There was a very abusive element that was shouting and threatening, they feel threatened by us," she said.

A spokesman for Mr Fishburn's campaign said: "I'm not too worried. He used 'Shitface' and 'The Leader' last night to describe the Tories, but I think he'll be alright." The by-election, to be run by the London Assembly Parliament, was caused by the death of sitting MP Sir Brian Williams.



Eventually, he attacked. "There are people in this audience who are full of class hatred..." on, was drowned out in cheers.

Labour's Ann Holmes ended with only the occasional cry of "yuppie" and "ha-ha". Dudley Fishburn, the Conservative, who had been described by one of his own party workers speaking on a portable telephone as "steered out of his wits", battled bravely through.

When he complained that Britain had suffered 20 years of sterile debate about "how the cake was divided", he faced chants of: "We want the bakery!"

THE KENSINGTON BYE-ELECTION

control of where they live and work, organising to confront their own problems without the 'help' of politicians or any of the other parasites who fuck us over

Class War has never been afraid of the media, they've always done us more good than harm. When used properly they can get across the politics (albeit in a watered down form) to far more people than a few thousand political papers being flogged on street corners or rotting away in Lefty bookshops ever could, and of course, the media love elections. What's so wrong if just for once they have articles saying that there's a candidate who says that all politicians are bastards and that the working class should seize control.

We're not saying that Class War or any other revolutionary groups should put up more candidates in elections (these things are never as good the second time around) but as a tactic we hope it played a part (however tiny) in undermining the ruling classes' hold on society, and getting across the idea that things could be different.

Not everyone in the Class War Federation supported the London group's participation in the Kensington Bye-Election. We thought it was important though that in The Heavy Stuff there was an article explaining why it was done for people who might have been amused, confused, annoyed or just plain interested. Maybe there'll be an article in the next issue giving the other side of the story - watch this space.....

TIM PALMER

CLASS WAR REPRINT

WHAT DO WE DO WHEN THE COPS FUCK OFF?

For most of us, the most important political events of the past five years have occurred, not in the smoke-filled rooms of the Union barons; not in the stripped pine rooms of the Habitat socialists; not even in the meat-free living spaces of the anarchist ghetto, but on the streets and estates of the urban working class. From the blazing summer of 1981, through the miners strike, to the siege of Broadwater Farm, literally thousands of working class people have taken on the forces of darkness and the state, physically resisting the filth in a host of struggles, many of them suppressed by snivelling hacks. And we've only seen the preliminary skirmishes in a conflict as inevitable as it will be bloody.

URBAN WAR

Whether Kinnock, Thatcher or Owen scratch their way to the top of the parliamentary dung heap matters bugger all. By 1999, the urban war will be a permanent feature of everyday life in every benighted city in this sceptic isle. There will be guns and deaths on both sides, as the cops mutate into daleks, and a host of scrapheap geniuses become the weaponsmiths of the ghettos. The army will be there, either in an advisory/intelligence role (as they were in Brixton in 1981),

or on the streets dressed as cops (as they were in the miners strike), or both. Increasingly, the cost of maintaining civil order, both in casualties and finance, will be more than the state is prepared to pay in the rotting heartlands of our cities.

FANTASY AND REALITY

This all sounds fine as apocalyptic fantasy, but what's it going to be like when YOU have no choice about living it..... 24 hours a day? It's already too close for comfort for some of us. While the police terrorise Broadwater Farm, stealing food and clothing, and menacing people with guns, people living on the Gloucester Grove Estate in Peckham, South London, are deprived of post and emergency services due to attacks by anti-social elements. If we're not careful, the 1990's in the cities could be a choice between these two options - occupation by the brutal psychocops - or terrorisation by criminal scum.

The two rapes in the 1985 Brixton riot underline this point. Writing in the magazine 'Monochrome', a woman refers to women being treated as the 'spoils of war', and describes how she felt safer fighting the cops than in the

areas they'd been kicked out of. Well sod that for a liberated zone!

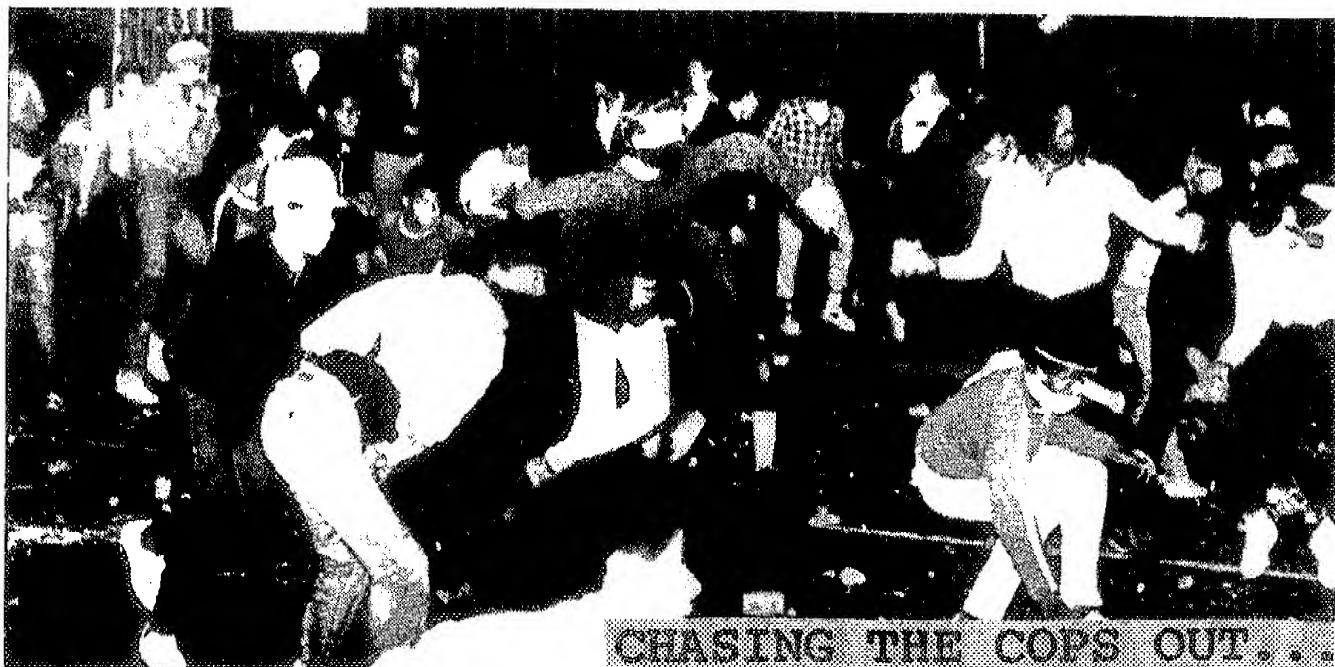
WHAT DO WE DO WHEN THE COPS FUCK OFF?

The question of what we're actually going to do when the cops fuck off, has been almost completely ignored by street revolutionaries, but it's one of the most important problems we face. There is no way that people are going to be greatful to see the back of the filth if they think that muggers, rapists, smack-dealers, wife beaters, and other anti-social bastards are going to have a free hand.

But it needn't be like that. Someone once told me of an incident he witnessed in occupied Ireland. Rioting on the Falls Rd. had carried on 'til early morning, and vehicles were needed for a road block, when along whirred a milk float. Quick as a flash it was commandeered. However, it was not torched until the crates had been taken off and every local household had been delivered two pints of milk!

COMMUNITY RESISTANCE

This sort of interaction between street-fighters and the rest of the community is essential. When looting takes place, we must



CHASING THE COPS OUT...

make sure that goods are distributed to those in need, not as an abstract matter of principle, but because we need to show that we care for our fellow prisoners in the slum streets and rat-hole estates than any number of incompetent, grassing social-workers. And of course, in a state of insurrection, those who look after our kids, carry messages and weapons, lie for us in court, and give first aid are as vital to the struggle as the able-bodied, young, and largely male (though less so every time!) streetfighters.

But it's not just a question of handing out a few tins of beans to the old folk. If we cannot deliver safe streets and secure homes for EVERYONE, ordinary people will be begging for the return of the law. Obviously informers must be dealt with severely, but the best way to stop them creeping out of the woodwork is to prove that the community can do a better job of preventing anti-social behaviour than the filth.

STREET JUSTICE

Street Justice is an ugly phrase. It carries visions of Clint Eastwood crazed vigilantes shooting black kids for being assertive; the IRA kneecapping kids for smoking dope; the Ayatollah's "Party of God" beating women for daring to dress the way they want. But somewhere along the line, as individuals, as communities and as a class, we are going to have to learn how to dispense street justice. Otherwise, people terrified to walk their own streets and estates will continue to fall for all that law 'n' order bullshit.



IT STARTS NOW

It starts now. With thinking about what you'd do if you saw next door being broken into. There's got to be a better answer than calling the cops or letting it happen. And we need to find it before every street has a neighbourhood-watch snoop snivelling back to the smiling community bobby with his plastic bullets and computer files.

It starts now. With making sure that in this summer's riots, the muggers are challenged and the rapists eliminated. With making sure that clumsiness or drunken stupidity don't result in proper people getting their homes burnt out.

It starts now. With discussions on the streets and estates about what we are going to do when the cops fuck off. Street Justice is justice for ALL, by ALL. Anything else is just a new set of cops. We need the answers quickly, and we haven't begun to ask the right questions.

CLASS WAR REPRINT FROM
ISSUE 17 SPRING 1986



... AND KEEPING THEM OUT

In the first issue of *The Heavy Stuff* Ian Bone's introduction went somewhat towards explaining Anarchism's failure as a revolutionary vehicle. In recent times there's been a lot of discussion along these lines. In some cases this has led to a mild anti-Anarchist backlash but to nowhere near the extent some Anarchists would have people believe. The problem lies in salvaging the good bits of working class Anarchism and using them as part of coherent "Class War" politics. The end result should be political ideas imaginative and straightforward enough to appeal to people but specific enough to prevent misunderstanding. Specific ideas are also important because they are hard targets for liberal time wasters to try and pick an argument with.

At the same time we must never be left behind politically or culturally as other groups have become (or even started out as !)

The point of this article is not to give Anarchism the push. It is to reject the political bullshit that now surrounds Anarchism, the irrelevant ideas, obsessions and paranoias that create and maintain the 'Anarchist Ghetto'. This is Anarchism's legacy and will haunt any group trying to portray itself as "Anarchist".

But underneath all the stupid hippy-punk crap and the salivated ramblings of tired 'hard' revolutionaries, are ideas which are inherited from all sorts of sources. And amongst these there are some working class politics that really hit the nail in the head, so general that they can be applied to any situation. These could serve as part of a starting point to 'home grow' our own ideas.

The reason for doing this is, like it or not, Class War emerged from the Anarchist ghetto. Short of a total political turn-around there's no way any proper analysis of our politics will show no trace of Anarchism- Although these ideas wouldn't be uniquely Anarchist.

Anarchism has never been able to sustain itself for very long. Its upturns are minor when compared with those of the Left during a given period. In most cases they simply leave a legacy of tired libertarians to populate Lefty bookshops and liberal campaigns.

When Anarchism has been laid to rest for a while nobody hears about for ages. Then somebody turns up with a wonderful idea they got from a book (written 150

THE END OF ANARCHISM



years ago by a fallen aristocrat and kindly reprinted by a benevolent underground press), and starts taking it seriously. The philosophies offered border upon the utopian and have about as much political fibre as a toilet roll advert. Then, providing there is some sort of cultural bandwagon to jump on and an established order of patronising intellectuals to guide them little groups of Anarchists are formed. They are convinced that every body will listen to them because they offer heaven on earth.



Anarchism's popularity grows because the ideas it offers are so general that anyone can be one, no matter what they think. This creates the '57 varieties' of Anarchists we all know and love; A social club for anybody who sticks their little heads up and sneers reasonably rebeliously.

Anarchism starts to kill itself off when people become aware of the massive political differences within the clique. They do this as a result of the limited political education they receive within their group.

The final outcome, as Anarchism becomes more obscure again is a collection of groups whose sole function is to bicker at each other - unless they make a conscious effort not to "for the sake of solidarity". The result of trying to refine Anarchism politically just seems to leave a ragbag of contradictory and hairy fairy ideas. Hairy fairy ideas are constantly hitting political brick walls and are incapable of moving forward. They are trapped in a prison made from their own pretence at flexibility.

In a desperate attempt at relevance Anarchists try to apply themselves to issues they feel are important. This is when they show themselves up to be moralists.

Their insistence on moral and political purity only leaves a handful of stuff to get on with

like, oh dear, animal rights and ecology. Presumably because it is easy for them to identify with the simple moralities of animals and the earth as the innocent victims of society's evils, compared to the working class which faces a political conflict between its roles within and interests against Capitalism.

Crazy ideas emerge like the incredible "without animal liberation there will never be human freedom." This sort of crap emerges from a patronising view of a 'flat cap' parody of working class life.

Politics like these rear their head in the form of the Liberal side issue. There is no doubt that following these issues is a waste of time, but what Anarchists can't do is tell a liberal side issue when they see one.

Let's get it straight, the only fundamental issue is class struggle. Because Capitalism is the most direct oppression we can fight and it depends on authority and inequality. On top of that, as a class, we have the potential to transform the world for, and by, ourselves.

Fighting the 'isms', what you might call liberation politics,



within the working class forms an integral part of this project. More or less obvious to make sure the world we create is better than the one we leave behind.

And by virtue of the fact that these are essentially struggles within the working class the people directly involved can, again, liberate themselves, by their own actions.

On the other hand Liberal Side Issues have no effect on the direct oppression of working class people, and cannot increase our class's confidence in its own power. This is simply because



liberal side issues concentrate on a moralist, charitable point of view. Those who follow these causes see themselves as an enlightened elite 'educating' other people in their moral failings. Those involved are not directly effected by their struggle except in the repercussions they face at the hands of the establishment.

Most importantly the liberal side issue offers no direct threat to Capitalism. A vegan, ecological Capitalism would do just as well as it did before. A working class changed for itself, by itself, with less oppression within itself is much harder (even impossible for) Capitalism to work it's way around.

It would be a direct step towards realising our own class revolutionary potential.

Still there are those who argue that 'their' issue is just as important as any other. They argue, again, from simplistic morality, adding this struggle to a list of post 60's 'New Left' "rights". This sort of listing struggles is insufficient - it only offers a criticism of society. It ignores the way oppressions relate to each other and the specific role played by an oppression within capitalism. Seeing things as "wrong" is nowhere near enough. It is necessary to see how they can be changed and the effect this has on the working class.

As already mentioned Anarchism's influence on Class War is always going to be there. But there's no point in becoming the '58th variety' with an even more obscure but politically compatible label.

Class War can draw upon a wealth of political experience from within itself. As a result, we can be confident of our ability to produce our own political ideas and not have to rely on any "Mandarins". At the same time to do this we have to be on our guard to remain a coherent voice within our class, that means never becoming politically or culturally isolated.

From a purely propaganda view dropping "Anarchism" makes it more difficult to disassociate ourselves from the left who, lets face it, are met with boredom and often hostility (especially at bloody 5.30pm on a rainy Monday.) Anarchism, at least, had a 'shock value' for people to take the piss out of. In rejecting one stifling tradition we can't inherit another just as bad or worse.

CHRIS CAUSEY

WHY WE HATE YUPPIES

In most major cities in Britain now the process of Gentrification is taking place in previously poor, run-down inner city areas. It's at its most obvious in Docklands in London but has spread to Hackney, Brixton, Battersea and elsewhere. Outside London in Cardiff, Bristol, Liverpool, Southampton, Glasgow and Edinburgh similar developments are taking place. Property in areas which only a few years ago was impossible to sell are now being eagerly snapped up and house prices rocketing. After the builders skips have appeared in the terraced streets the first wine bar can't be far away.

This process has occurred because people with newly acquired money have not been able initially to buy into the havens of the traditional rich such as Kensington and Chelsea in London

or wanted to move out into the commuter belts. The large pools of cheap housing near to the City have been ideal to them to buy, gut and do up. Once the first one is bought they're almost immediately ready to re-sell it to the next wave of incoming Yuppies and move on to something bigger and more expensive. It's a way to make money as well as a house to live in.

Such has been the spectacular increase in Yuppie spending power since Big Bang however and so rapid the spread of gentrification that demand for housing near the City far outstripped supply. New luxury housing has had to be built as well as old houses pushed up. The bureaucracy of local councils and planning controls had meant, however, that the building of new luxury housing in prime inner city areas was either being





delayed or prevented altogether. The Thatcher Government has been forced to break its own rules and create Government quangos such as the LDDC and newer Urban Development Corporations to try and cut through the red tape which was holding up the Yuppie expansion. The derelict docklands in East London were ideal for redevelopment and Thatcher has used the LDDC, created initially by the Labour Party, as a prime example of her desire and ability to perform ruthless social engineering. Old established small businesses and industries have been swept away and closed down regardless of any objections, and promises made to provide jobs and housing for local people, included as a sweetener for local feeling, cynically and completely ignored. Virtually none have been provided by the LDDC despite repeated promises.

Any council housing which has stood in the way of any of these developments has been demolished and the tenants evicted with no provision for their rehousing. The LDDC says rehousing is not their responsibility though evictions are! It's not just land for new luxury housing that has led to the demolition of existing council housing but provision of its infrastructure of new roads and transport links etc. Where houses have not been demolished the living conditions of those left in them has been made intolerable by suddenly finding a three lane highway, building site or rail line within inches of their front door. In Bethnal Green O.A.P.'s have been evicted from their flats so that the view for Yuppies in a nearby luxury block can be enhanced by their demolition!

Now any city area with a derelict docklands, wharf, river or canalside site or area of industrial wasteland adjacent to the city centre is ripe for such development by the newly created U.D.C.'s. Such previously



'unattractive' towns as Birmingham and Newcastle are next on the list.

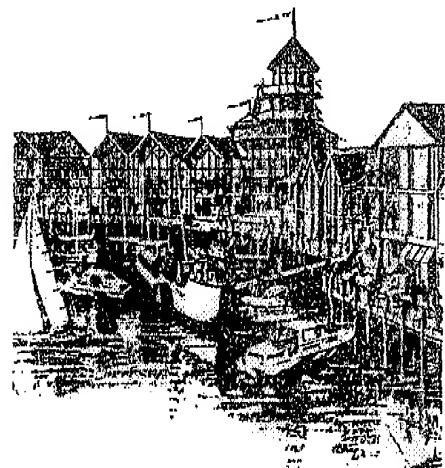
As the luxury penthouse blocks spring up, often apparently overnight, they come with their own extensive security provisions of gated estates, video cameras and private security guards. Along the Thames attempts have been made to close off public walkways and incorporate them into the private estates. Often these newly gentrified areas have none of the facilities desired by the wealthy incomers so they bring in their wake a whole series of wine bars, brasseries and expensive restaurants. Previously run down local pubs which although tatty were the hub of the local community supporting football clubs, OAP's outings etc. are closed down and turned into Yuppie wine bars where the previous clientele are banned or turned into the sideshow of cockney characters for the Yuppies to laugh at.

They are backed up with the provision of private leisure facilities like squash, windsurfing and health clubs. Land previously enjoyed by the community for sport or leisure is now far too valuable to be left like this. Already there is talk of the end of the famous football pitches on Hackney Marshes and their being turned over to private developers for leisure provision for the wealthy e.g. somewhere to stable the polo ponies in Winter!

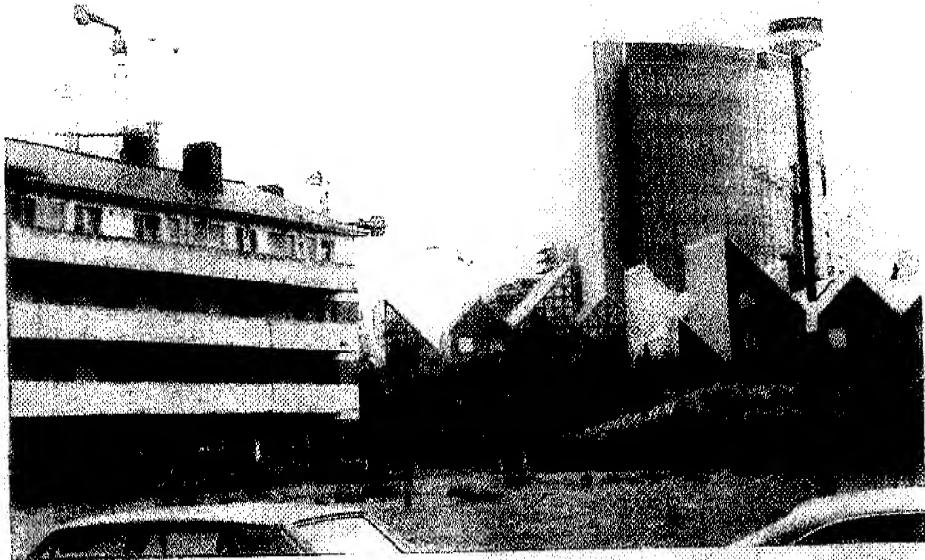
After leisure will follow the influx of picture framers, art galleries, and delicatessens. In areas where you can't buy a loaf or a tin of beans you can by

Indonesian seaweed for your teas. Then there comes the private health clinics, the BUPA hospitals and the private schools and nurseries.

All very nice for the rich newcomers but what's it mean for people who lived in these areas all their lives. They are forced to live in poverty in the middle of the grossest affluence. Often in the same street or road you can find luxury dwellings backing on to council estate slums which haven't seen any improvements for years. Because of the rocketing price of land, (£4 Million an acre in The Isle Of Dogs, the most expensive in the world), these people will be forced to move out as their homes are demolished for Yuppies. Local councils faced with financial cutbacks will inevitably bow to market forces and realise the potential of their assets. Rented accommodation will cease to exist. The remaining families will be shipped off to the Cockney reservations of Basildon or



the plan for Southampton Docks



Basingstoke or some other soulless new town. Many old people will loose the will to live uprooted from friends, family and the community they have lived in all their lives. The youngsters will come back at weekends to drink in the pubs and nightclubs, meet their old mates, maybe play in the Sunday League football teams which no longer have any connection with their original areas or names.

The comparison made by Bob Hoskins with Red Indian reservations is accurate as the new inhabitants of Basildon return to look at their old lands in Docklands seized from them by force and without compensation to make way for the rich conquerors. The few that remain will be caricatures of their former communities dressed up as Cockney pearly Kings and Queens for the tourists to gawp at as they get off the Dockland's Light Railway, selling old Cockney trinkets to make a few bob. A few

will be patronised in the 'genuine' local pubs as they sing 'Kness Up Mother Brown' to an audience of Stockbrokers anxious to show their clients that they live in the real Eastend surrounded by genuine characters.

The only working class people who will still get to live there will be those employed in the return of the Upstairs, Downstairs world of working in service as cleaners, nannies, cooks and chauffeurs which will be the only expanding industry left in Docklands.

Before the Eastenders are forced out altogether they will have nothing but a miserable existence to live for so that in the end they will be glad and grateful to go. Living in the middle of a giant building site surrounded by noise and dust as the new infrastructure of roads and services is laid down. As the docklands airport can jet you to Europe from the heart of London and the light railway pumps in the tourists you still have to wait hours for a bus on the Isle of Dogs to get to the shops as the bus service continues to be run down (after all doesn't everyone have at least two cars these days?). Communities disintegrate as local shops are closed and buying food becomes impossible, but you can get your picture framed 24 hours a day!

All the services decline - schools are closed as their roll calls are down as increasing numbers are moved out and the incomers go to private ones. Increasingly it gets difficult to get on NHS doctors books as private health facilities take over completely. Already there is a severe shortage of nurses at hospitals in East London because

nurses cannot afford to find anywhere to live on their poverty line wages so the health care of working class people continues to deteriorate. This will increase until the few remaining NHS hospitals cease to exist altogether because anyone with any sense will find the gleaming new Milton Keynes district hospital preferable to a rundown workhouse like Queen Elizabeth childrens' hospital in Hackney which is already only kept going by pub raffles and bed pushes.

Already these areas are becoming a nightmare of desolation, decay and violence for working class people. Half empty run down estates become the haunt of muggers and drug pushers, where people barricade themselves in their own homes after six o'clock and the threat of violence lurks behind every corner as people have their homes broken into or are mugged for a fiver. There is nothing left of the communities where people once looked after their own kind but fragmentation, fear and division. In these circumstances it's not surprising that where people can even hark back to the days of Reggie and Ronnie Kray (looked after their own) they welcome the opportunity to move out or even welcome the influx of Yuppies as likely to bring improvements to the area. So the Government systematically destroys a working class community which as it disintegrates under pressure becomes a nightmare. Thatcher is then able to caricature this fragmented nightmare as what she is trying to replace in the first place. People are naturally only too keen on it.

It's not just inner cities which are being gentrified it's country villages as well. A flat in docklands may be first priority but the village house in Wiltshire won't be far behind. Rail transport means that Yuppie commuters can not only get into London quickly from villages in Oxfordshire or Hampshire but



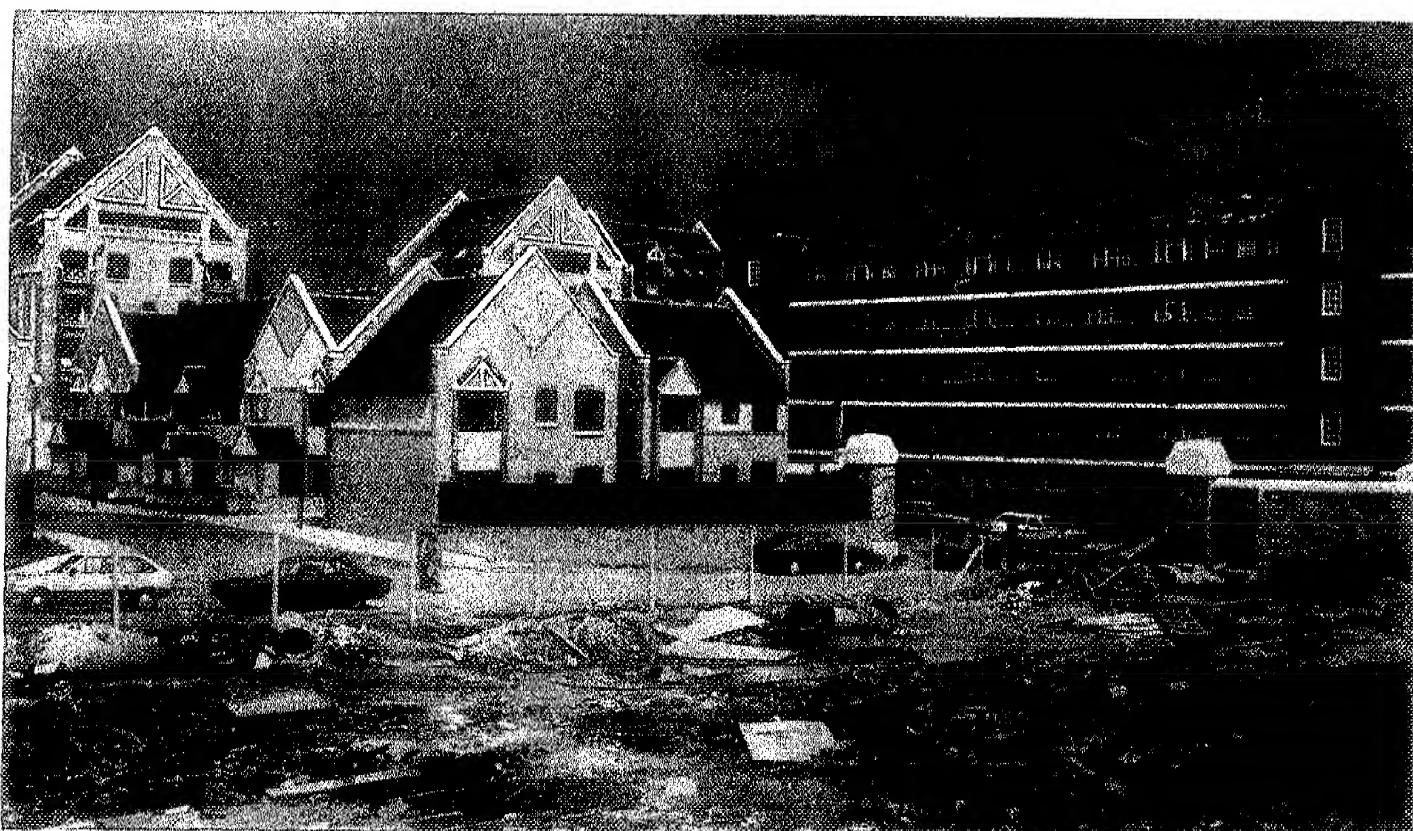
spread far beyond to Dorset where house prices are reflecting the rises in London. With council house building in villages completely ground to a halt in the Tory shires, rented accommodation becomes non-existent as houses are snapped up in price ranges far beyond the grasp of local working class people. Whole villages are turned into commuter deserts during the day as their population travels to London on the 7.40 and back on the 5.15. The villages suffer the same cycle of deprivation and decline as the inner city. Public transport becomes non-existent, post offices, schools and shops close down. The few rural poor that are left are unable to afford a house, find a job, or move about.

Eventually they move away leaving the villages tarted up quaintly for the Yuppies to show off to their weekend visitors. In the Cotswolds, Lake District and Yorkshire Dales whole villages are taken over by holiday homes with just a few locals living there as servants for the rest of the year. The situation is most acute in Scotland and Wales where the holiday home has been the subject of some resistance for years. Whole villages in North Wales on the Lleyn peninsula have been taken over by holiday homes with the resultant complete destruction of the local community, their culture and their language. Now luxury holiday developments are being built there with the local Welsh



people reduced to posing with harps and black hats in the same way as the pearly Kings and Queens of London to give the wealthy incomers their bit of local culture they value so much.

Why have Yuppies suddenly appeared en masse now in the mid



1980's? The answer is that Thatcher's Conservative Government is a Yuppy Government both in its class composition and ideology which differs significantly from previous Tory Governments in terms of which section of the ruling class it represents. Thatcher, the Grantham grocer's daughter, is not a traditional Conservative leader in her class background nor is the social composition of her government a traditional Tory one. The traditional rich, the landowners, country gentry, noble families or industrial capitalists which the Conservative party has always represented no longer find themselves with any representation at all in Thatcher's cabinet.

Instead we have the grammar school brigade of Norman Tebbit, Kenneth Baker etc. the men who have 'dragged themselves up by their own bootstraps' etc. "One Nation Toryism" no longer exists. It is effectively replaced by the hard edged, self-made, success-rewarding, monetarist Conservatism with which Thatcher has captured the Tory party. No pretence is made anymore of the 'Caring Conservatism' of the Macmillan era which affected to serve the interests of all the people. If an industry is uneconomic it will close down regardless of its shattering effects on the local community. If there's no money left to run hospitals than that's too bad and

they'll have to close down as well. If there's no money left to provide enough nurses to enable working class kids to have heart operations then that's just too bad and they'll have to die.

Just as the Tory Party is now represented by the thrusting Yuppie rather than the country landowner so with society as a whole. The emphasis on prudent housekeeping, no subsidies, stand on your own two feet, coupled with the decline of the traditional industries and the boom in the Stock Exchange and the City is transforming the nature of our society and the composition of the ruling class. Big money can be made in the City very quickly and by anyone prepared to work hard at it. How many scally Scousers or Cockney barrow boys now find they can make millions more legitimately on the Stock Exchange than they ever could with a few back of the lorry scams. The recent list of the top two hundred most wealthy men in Britain contained in it people like George Walker and Alan Sugar, Eastenders of just this type.

Previously traditional Conservatism was a closed shop - a hereditary elite - but now wealth and power in the city and Government is open to far more people. This is the major achievement of Thatcher's popular Capitalism. A flood of Yuppies has swept away the toffs in their top hats.

The traditional toff would no sooner live in Docklands than he would forget to have his butler pack his polo sticks. They are becoming a dwindling band forced to let hordes of proles tramp around their country mansion in order to keep the slates on the roof.

They are held in open contempt by the Yuppies whose views are articulated in the Murdoch press... Where as the Maxwell Mirror still grovels daily around the royal family, the Sun has done effectively more to undermine the royals and traditional aristocracy than any propaganda of the left has ever done. Every possible scandal is used against them, they are mercilessly pilloried for their wealth and privilage, their hypocrisy and stupidity.

The men admired by Murdoch himself are the other Australian tycoons like Kerry Packer and Alan Bond. Men who have made their fortunes by challenging the old guard whether it be in the MCC or the New York Yacht Club. The Yuppie ideology is theirs to a tee. They'll support whoever serves their interests regardless

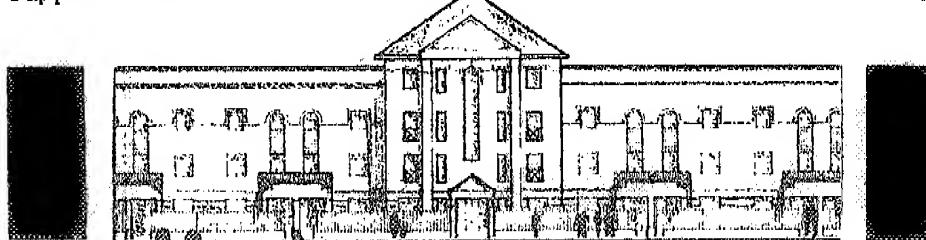


of where their traditional political home was supposed to be. In Australia they support Bob Hawke's Labour Party not the Aussie Conservatives.

It is another mark of Thatcher's success that she has moved the whole of the opposition along on her ideological coattails. The Labour Party of Kinnock and Gould is a Yuppie Labour Party, populated by designer socialists. It is quite possible to see Kinnock as a right wing wing bastard like Bob Hawke in Australia who could well end up a more useful tool for the Yuppie ruling class than a wet Tory party. In London the Labour activists in Islington or Hackney, as well as the councillors, are all Yuppies whose hare brained

schemes on anti racism and institutionalised anti sexism are loathed by the working class people in their respective boroughs.

Similarly in the wake of the Yuppified Labour Party the rest of the British Left has trailed behind. The magazine 'Marxism Today' with its wine lists and skiing holidays has cornered the market in trendy intellectuals who want to be revolutionaries and still enjoy all the benefits of a privileged position within consumer Capitalism. The Socialist Workers Party is now populated by teachers, probation officers, and social workers where once it did have a significant proletarian rank and file. The left is summed up by



Tollgate Square, East London

- the advert and the reality



the image of the upper crust Tariq Ali jogging along Hampstead heath in his designer shorts clutching his Harrods carrier bag as he puffs off to Channel 4 for a further discussion on May '68. The entire left has been Yuppified from within.

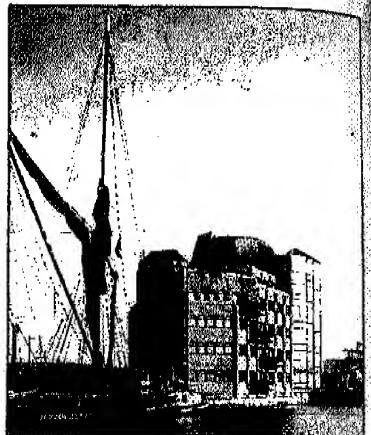
The oppositional malaise of the left flows from this fact - that their class composition makes them incapable of a sustained fightback since if it did it would be against their own class interest.

Thus when it comes to the crunch they will all advocate voting Labour despite the fact they have been slagging off the very same Labour party for the last four years. No wonder the working class has no faith in their ideas which usually extend no further than the preservation of their own interests dressed up

as a political campaign eg. Save their well paid job with the local council. The fact that the working class will not strike to defend the job of their local anti-racism council officer and his £20,000 a year remains a complete mystery to them.

However we should not gloat over the failure and bankruptcy of the Left... because also where there have been genuine working class struggles these too have been defeated whether in the community like Broadwater Farm or in industry like the miners or printers. Working class fightback has been smashed just as much as the pathetic posturings of the Left.

However there is no doubt that the inner city riots of 1981 and 1985 severely shook the Tories and they were determined to take action to ensure that they were not repeated. The working class communities of the inner cities were seen as a last obstacle to the supremacy of Thatcherism and one which must be removed. To do this it has had to be dressed up initially as a law and order problem in order to appeal to those very same working class communities they aimed



systematically to destroy.

Michael Heseltine's initiative in Liverpool involving the garden city scheme, regeneration of the Docks and persuading businesses to put money into Toxteth after '81 was only the first step in the progress on the way to the whole clutch of new inner city initiatives which Thatcher unveiled a few weeks ago. These are all aims at systematically destroying the working class communities in the inner cities. If these communities no longer exist then nor will their potential for oppositional activity. It was no idle remark or philanthropic gesture when on the night of her '87 election triumph she turned to the cameras and whispered 'We must do something about the inner cities', concern certainly... Concern that the inner cities represented the last threat to her hegemony.

This concern was on two levels: Firstly, that these areas persisted in voting Labour and secondly, that they retained the potential for civil disorder and unrest i.e. working class fightback. If Yuppies could, by a process of social engineering be got to move into previously run down areas they would vote Tory and the traditional Labour voters would move out.

This was classically illustrated in the Tory gains at Battersea and Fulham at the last general election. When the dispossessed working class are shipped off to their reservations they lose their cultural and economic identity as a class and no longer retain their traditional voting patterns, look at the victories of Gorman and Proctor in Basildon.

This is the crux of the whole Thatcher approach. Far more important than the piddling prospect of depriving Labour of victory in the inner cities is the aim to physically destroy and eliminate working class communities as a whole. Yuppies are to be shipped in the same way



The Albert Dock Liverpool



Speculators increase pressure on the homeless

as Scottish protestants were implanted into Ulster to destroy the Catholic majority. It's as brutally simple as that. The window dressing of reviving the inner city through all sorts of glossy proposals is a cover for the destruction of working class communities and their resistance.

This is why we hate Yuppies, because they are an invading army of the ruling class, bent on the elimination of our class and our culture. In class terms it's a class war where there can only be one victor and a replay will be impossible because one of the sides will have ceased to exist. It is that vital a struggle.

Firstly if people are to struggle to defend their own community then they've got to think that their community is worth defending, that it is worth fighting for. The Left is continually amazed that working class people will not defend a hundred and one things which the Left thinks is worth fighting for but which ordinary people couldn't give a toss about. In many inner city areas it is quite natural that people do not think their community is worth defending ridden as they are with mugging, burglary, smack dealing and general isolation and fear. Thatcher knows that no one in their right mind will fight to preserve this situation and, in these circumstances, will probably

welcome an influx of Yuppies as a way of improving the area or want to move away.

We have to offer practical solutions to such problems as crime on estates... solutions which are not pious hopes but which can offer the prospect of immediate relief of the problem. The obvious answer is for the people to police their own estates and deal with the anti-social elements themselves. This has the essential point of raising the issue of who controls the estate... the tenants or the police, the tenants or the council etc. The vital task is for the tenants to take control of their estate away from the police and council and run it for themselves in conjunction with local authority workers.

We must create situations of dual power where the councils may retain nominal power but in reality it is the tenants who are in control. Then such areas can become no go areas for the police, council officials, Government bureaucrats, bailiffs, rent collectors but also for muggers, rapists and other anti-social elements that shit on their own kind. Once a sense of community feeling is established in an area then people will quite naturally proceed to resist advancing Yuppies and attempts to drive them out. Their sense of themselves as a class with a

culture worth fighting for will give them the confidence to act in a combative manner and go from defence to offence.

The question of who controls not just an estate but entire working class areas will become increasingly contested. From this a strengthened class consciousness and combativity will emerge which begins to contest control of society as a whole. But it contests control not from a position of weakness or in purely ideological terms but in a position of strength based on the areas already under working class control. These working class controlled areas will prefigure the forms of workers and community councils which will form the basis of a society with the working class firmly in control. The question of workers power is one which can and must be raised in practice now, not left to some future revolution which will remain forever mythical. The task of repelling the invading Yuppies can be the first step in the awakening of our class confidence, in our ability to destroy this rotten yuppie society once and for all.

IAN BONE

CULTURE CLASS & POLITICS

Class War has always tended to draw the vast majority of its support from disaffected young white working class males. The majority of this particular section of the working class unfortunately though probably appear as the most reactionary. To most of them our politics may seem irrelevant, but also because we are part of that group (perhaps the most revolutionary part) we alienate more progressive elements in the working class from us. This means that in our present form we have never and will never generate any mass support for any of our ideas or politics, although we all believe that potential enthusiasm exists or we wouldn't be involved in the

first place. How do we get from our present situation where we are a small, ineffective group on the far shores of a vast ocean of working class political inertia, to one where our ideas and politics are an everyday reality. A situation where the name 'Class War' is known to everybody, not as an organisation, but as a catch all phrase for our politics.

An article in a recent issue of 'Virus', the theoretical journal of the Anarchist - Communist Federation, talked about a need to create an 'anarchist' culture. The ideas expressed tended to ghettoise the politics of class struggle, and were based on the assumption that any future free society will be based around the

anarchist movement. This ignored the mass of working class people entirely and more importantly, working class culture already in a well developed phase. Implicit in the tone of the article was that all existing working class culture is inferior and substandard, but the author did realise the basic fact that culture is probably one of the most important facets of the working class movement, and one of the most important themes in relation to our politics. We should not not be writing off working class culture wholesale, but looking at what cultural assets are of benefit and what parts are harmful to its own interests. We should be looking at how the culture of or class can





work in our favour and how our ideas can become a major part of that culture.

Although working class culture is extremely diverse (which is good in itself as it prevents the ruling class attacking us on every front) some elements of it appear to be more dominant than others, particularly among the white working class male youth we originally started with. I say "appear" because it is only an apparent dominance often mistaken for reality because of the loudness and ugliness of its manifestation and because the ruling class with its control of the media and modes of communication find it in their interests to emphasise these elements. I'm talking in the main about sexism and racism. Though not denying any commitment to fighting them, many people (perhaps because it seems less difficult) are talking of concentrating on 'real' working class community politics. However these politics are plagued by racism and sexism, and commitment to them should go hand in hand with challenging these afflictions, not in the way the left does, which probably only further entrenches these attitudes - everyone hates being lectured to. We must find new ways of working to realise our aims.

Let's examine how working class culture manifests these ideas then. National Front activity is in fact very small in this country, but everywhere you go in the country you can see NF graffiti despoiling the walls in pub toilets, football grounds and subways. Quite obviously it can't all be done by NF members, or even by people who'd join if given the chance - graffiti is one thing, real political activity is another. However, constant repetition of NF slogans, constant reinforcement

of racist ideas inside peer groups, plus the racist ideology promoted by the tabloids and the T.V. aid the growth of this part of white working class culture. Similarly women are faced with having roles dictated to them by newspapers and television, who also urge working class males to ridicule and step on women who challenge that position. More ominously pornography is sold on every street in Britain relegating women to powerless victims of sex. Sex becomes a fight between the victors and the beaten, with women always as the beaten, often literally. Aggression plays a greater and greater part in porn nowadays as the ruling class seek to direct working class aggression into forms that are less harmful to it. It doesn't matter to them how many rapes take place or that working class women are afraid to walk the streets. In fact they have realised they can make a profit out of it by exploiting the fears of women in locks and alarms and pandering to desensitized men by selling lurid stories of attacks and rapes in newspapers. The abuse of women has become a very lucrative commodity, from porn videos to strippergrams to page 3. When porn magazines are sold only an arms length away from children's comics, what is society trying to tell the young?

What isn't recognised is the fragility of this sexist and racist hegemony (by which I mean a dominant or ruling ideology). The people who have a real stake in reducing women to second class citizens and keeping large sections of the working class racist have to work very hard at it. It breaks down very easily in



the case of racism i.e. the riots, the development of a few multi-racial football crews, and the growing identification of large sections of white working class youth with black American popular culture. Although the latter is just another example of U.S. cultural and commercial imperialism, it has succeeded in uniting some black and white working class youth around the themes of music, fashion and especially graffiti, on a scale not seen before in this country. It's not revolutionary and it's hardly political in any shape or form, but it is much more preferable to see thick black squiggles than racist and sexist graffiti. This graffiti is still epidemic though and the corresponding attitudes emerge everywhere - in school, at work, at football grounds and so on. Combating it is often very hard and sometimes dangerous.

Obviously these ideas and aspects of working class culture





appear ugly and alien to many people in Class War, but we must not ignore them as some people seem in danger of doing, but strive to create a counter-hegemony of working class culture, using the traditional ideas of suspicion of authority and hatred of the rich. These ideas have been submerged under an avalanche of subservience, racism, sexual division and patriotism. The fact that these ideas are part of our culture already is often forgotten. To assume that Class War is saying something new is a sad mistake, history shows examples too numerous to mention of people putting our ideas into practice. So if we know that hating 'snobs' and the 'filth' on a mass scale is possible, how is it to be engineered? The creation of a popular paper as described by

Andy Murphy in Heavy Stuff No.1 is (with reservations), probably one of the main ways forward. Within the foreseeable future it is laughable to think that it will pose a serious challenge to the influence of the Sun etc. But it is such a good paper, articulating its ideas in an enjoyable and amusing way that it can't fail to influence the people who buy it from street sales or in the newsagents. Obviously though to rely on the paper only would mean putting off the revolution until

Class War or even seen a copy of the paper, out of sheer boredom automatically writes 'Class War - Stuff The Rich' on his school desk where hundreds of kids write 'NF' then we will have failed.

The NF have been very unsuccessful as an organisation, but their obnoxious ideas have spread and done some very bad damage to the working class movement. If we can get our ideas to spread in a similar way, we will have been very successful. Who cares about whether Class War as



half way through the next century.

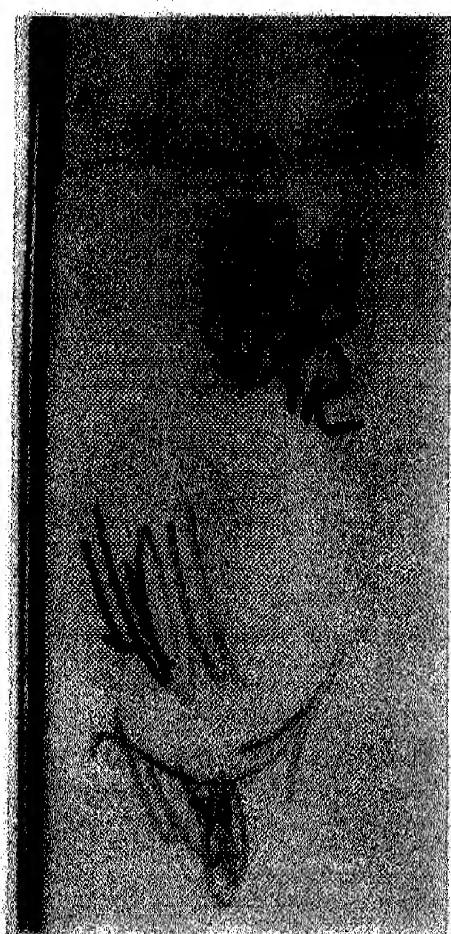
To re-raise awareness of the other areas of working class culture we are interested in, and also to make unfashionable and smother the other ideas, our slogans, ideas and our symbols should confront our class every day. Every day they are faced with pro-capitalist and racist media, sexist and reactionary graffiti and convestration. It must be the job of all of us (sorry if this sounds to melodramatic) to take up our pens and spray cans and reclaim the walls of our areas. When we're sitting in public toilets, we should be writing 'Kill The Rich' and abusing or ridiculing the writers of offensive graffiti; at work we should read out loud and laugh at the very few items of working class fightback that get into the papers; we should abuse men who stand pouring over the porn mags on the top shelves in newsagents.

We must reach a situation where people are being bombarded with pro-working class input from dawn to dusk. If we cannot reach a situation where a kid with a pen, who has never met anyone in

an organisation grows or is successful as long as its aims are realised.

The way anti-racism and anti-sexism have been turned into issues by the left have alienated many people, even among our own ranks. Our approach then should not be one of rivalry with the Trotskyist groups but one of outright hostility. Working class people when they become politicised are not offered many options. As the class struggle increases more and more people will be drawn towards what they perceive as political activism, and most visible in this area at the moment are the Trotskyist groups. They suck people in and feed off their initial enthusiasm, but puke out the majority of people at the other end cynical, bored and apathetic. To just attack them, even ideologically is really a waste of time and counter productive. The SWP, RCP and Militant relish the role of being attacked, they can then call for solidarity in their defence and it helps to build up the membership.

In the past many of us might have been prepared to be identified with the tradition of just ripping down the left



posters, however this form of attack, strangely enough, tends to benefit these groups. If they are being attacked in this most basic ideological form, then the logic is that their politics and ideas must be a threat. People will contact them and go to their meetings specifically to find out what it is they have to say that is considered such a threat!

So how do we combat the so-called revolutionary left and their boredomistaion of politics and prevent progressive elements

credible Anarchist politics. This changed to attempt to establish our left-wing-credentials by commitment to anti-racism and women's issues (though we drew the line at trendy Feminist issues) in the face of accusations of Fascism. Now we have adopted what some people see as a commitment to community politics that is based in the 'real' world of 'real' peoples' lives.

We brought a really fresh approach to fighting racism and the problems of women in this



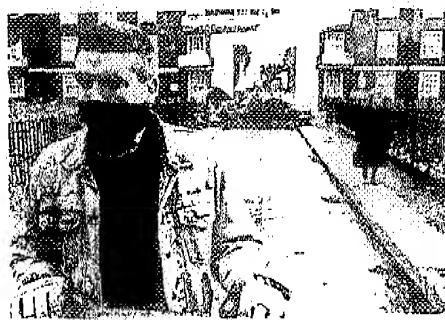
of the working class being sucked into an experience that is basically alien to the working class cultural experience, the hierarchical party idea?

Well, the answer is pretty simple really and something something that Class War has become quite good at - we take the piss out of them. This does not mean going to their meetings and making jokes at the back, this will only reinforce a sense of party loyalty. So what then? Again, graffiti rears its useful head. We must not rip down their posters but write humorous and witty additions to them or print spoofs that don't just attack their ideas but promote ours. If we can create an aura of foolishness around these party organisations then people may try to find their own forms of organisation and steer clear of the Trots. After all, no-one in their right mind wants to join an organisation that is generally thought of as a laughing stock.

Class War has changed its emphasis to suit the surrounding political climate on a number of occasions, originally the aim was to break out of the anarcho-punk scene and create a real force for

society and there is a real danger that faced with slow growth and low activity we will forsake that innovation to follow the path of least resistance, in order to get us a higher profile in the working class. That road is wrong; it will store up untold problems for the future as women and black people who may join in the future feel threatened by a nonappreciation of what they have to face, with 'working class' jack the lads asserting that this has nothing to do with the 'real' political agenda (we've already had one example). Changing political direction should not mean forsaking our commitment to the liberation of all our class.

SEAN KENNY



THE POLICE

On the whole the police are disliked by the majority of working class people and yet when groups like Class War advocate getting rid of them all together, many working class people express fears. The thing that makes the police seem so infallibly strong is not their "New Technology" and fire power, but the illusion that "we cannot do without them."

'Police atrocities' are an inevitable feature of the violent world for which the capitalist system and its ruling class are responsible. Unlike many of the so-called left, we do not believe that it is possible to reform the police and unlike many 'anarchists', we do not think it is enough to just get rid of the police and expect mugging, rape, and so on, to disappear at the same time. Working class communities themselves have to organise so that we are not left to the mercy of anti-social elements. Part of this process of organisation involves having a clear understanding of the role of the police in this society, alternatives to the police and why so many people continue to believe that we would live in "the law of the jungle", if we got rid of them.

Divide and rule.

Historically the ruling class has managed to play different sections of the working class against one another so that we have, for the most part, been divided. Whilst we fight and argue amongst ourselves we are little immediate threat to the bosses. What they fear most is a united working class that has stopped fighting between itself and knows who the real enemy is.

Apart from the main purpose of protecting the power and wealth of the ruling class, the police exist also to add to the lie that working class people cannot take responsibility for running their own lives. We are fooled into thinking that what we need is a permanent, specialised and institutionalised force in order to prevent us harming one another and "civilised (?) society disintegrating."



Illusions

The media pretend that Class War are advocating the freedom for muggers to mug, rapists to rape and murderers to murder, which is completely untrue. In fact we recognise that the police themselves cannot deal with these



problems and are suggesting that there are realistic alternatives to the present situation. People in 80's Britain have little confidence in the ability or willingness of the police to protect them, but they do not see an alternative because the media doesn't show them one. We need to see through the illusion that the police are the professional, intelligent and highly trained superhumans they are portrayed as. The truth is that they are sloppy and inefficient and no 'better' at their 'job' than anyone else. They are not irreplaceable, unique individuals and the 'special qualities' we hear so much about, amount to nothing more than the ability (stupidity) to follow orders, however ridiculous or "unlawful". Yes, the police cannot even be relied upon not to break the very laws they're supposed to exist to enforce!

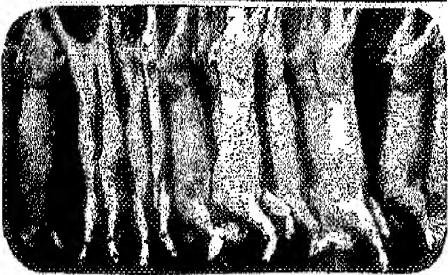
In order to justify their existence to the public, the police also do 'socially useful' things like, directing traffic, helping people cross busy roads, finding missing persons and so on. They also appear to "deal with anti-social elements". There are two points to immediately stress here :-

- 1) Working Class communities are more than capable of doing these socially useful functions themselves, given the same access to resources, as indeed they are capable of dealing with anti-social elements before such acts happen as well as after.
- 2) The police exist primarily to protect capital and not the working class, therefore resources and energies will always be diverted away from socially useful functions whenever capitalism is threatened. We therefore cannot rely upon the police even if we wanted to.

Resources

Another argument we hear in favour of police is that they are doing jobs that no one else is

willing to do. This ignores the fact that people often don't want these jobs done in the first place eg. protecting the rich, breaking strikes, evictions etc. A lot of police work is down to being able to use the available resources that working class people are denied access to. Indeed working class communities are actively



discouraged from 'taking the law into their own hands', by the police themselves! If the police didn't get in the way, we would be able to deal with anti-social elements and day to day problems ourselves. In doing so working class communities offer protection that the police do not even seek to guarantee. This is quite a claim, so how can it be done?

Sides

Firstly we have to have no illusions about the police. We must be clear that the police are an instrument of the ruling class. They are NOT neutral and DO NOT exist for our benefit even if they sometimes appear to. The police cannot be 'made good', so they must be swept away. We do not deny that individual police officers might for example, be nice to their grannies, not kick the cat in the morning and even be against nuclear power. The whole point is that if they are told by their 'superiors' to hit people over the head with a truncheon they will, because they won't be in the force for long if they don't!

Class War have been criticised over our attitude to P.C. Blakelock's death. It is not for us to debate whether he was the warm, gentle, loving person the press made him out to be, because the point is that he was told to put on riot gear and attack Broadwater Farm. He was killed there, not because he was a nasty, racist pile of shit but because he was carrying out orders to attack a working class community. Whether he agreed with them or not is not the point. He knew when he began riot training that this might happen. The police choose exactly which side they're on and are quite clearly enemies of the working class. Whilst this

is the situation there can be no place for these individuals in working class communities and organisations. We need to create 'cop-free-zones' where they cannot, dare not, interfere with our lives, and in doing so, our communities have to establish an alternative method of stopping anti-social behaviour. If we fail to do this people will continue to experience the kind of fear they live in at the moment and soon seek a return to the forces of law and order and greater repression.

Independant working class.

It is important to prove, not only that we don't need the police but also we must show that they are not all powerful. Class War's 'Hospitalised Copper' and reports of attacks on the police is a refreshing reminder that the cops can be overcome.

Our attacks on the police must be clearly identified with our overall objective - the overthrow

of the capitalist system and ruling class and its replacement with a free and equal society. We must be clear that getting rid of the cops is only one step towards achieving the independant working class needed to reorganise society.

By proving that we don't need the police in our communities and that we can rely on each other, we are also proving that we don't need the ruling class and capitalist system. We can without the police and their bosses, protect and defend our own communities.

The struggle against all forms of oppression be it racial, sexual, economic, social, political - or against police oppression - is the same struggle. If we want to be rid of one, we must fight all the others.

DAVE LUTON



THE CRASH AND RECESSION

The Stock Market crash of 1987 was important to the bankers, the shareholders and those who cream off profits at the stock exchange. Was it important to us and why? Should we have just celebrated as a few middle class stock brokers got the boot?

The Stock Market is an indicator of the Ruling Class' confidence in their economic system, Capitalism, the way that things are produced and distributed in this society. This is clearly important to us in our own lives. It dominates them one way or another. A look at the stock market is therefore not only worth it if you've got a few shares. It's useful as it shows how strong the Capitalist economy is and what we can expect as a result.

As the dust from the crash settled one European finance

minister let slip his thoughts...

"The question is not whether there will be a recession in 1988 but how severe it will be."

A recession is when economic activity slows down. That means less goods and services are bought. The Ruling Class cannot find a profit for the goods they want to sell.

But crashes don't cause recessions. The Stock Market is a result of Capitalists gaining investment capital, money to buy more labour, raw materials and tools. They sell shares which themselves can be later sold and on which a form of interest called a dividend is paid, depending on company profits. A market of buying and selling has grown

around these shares. Speculators try to buy cheap and sell expensive.

Although the stock brokers and the Capitalists are both parts of the same class they don't have the same interest in everything. Both want to make sure they don't get hurt by a slump. Individually the same is true of each stockbroker or Capitalist.

The stock market crashes because stock brokers in the Ruling Class believe recession is on the way. The Ruling Class, unfortunately, is not irrational enough to dig its own grave. The crash represents individual stock holders selling shares(stock) to make sure they won't lose out. Recessions may happen faster because of a crash but it is the underlying economic crisis which caused the crash of '87 and could cause a recession in 1988 and '89.

Crises have happened every few years since Capitalism rose as the dominant economic organisation of the Ruling Class. Before Capitalism, crises were of under production, shortages of food and water etc. The slumps we have seen under the Capitalist Ruling Class have been quite different. Capitalist crises are a result of over production and under consumption. As businesses and the world economy grow they expand past the point that the goods produced can be sold at a profit. It is irrelevant whether there is a need for these goods - eg. a famine in Africa or homelessness in Britain. Under Capitalism a thing isn't sold because of a need. To be sold it must be making a profit for the Capitalist. If the Capitalist can't get a price where he/she will make a profit then he/she won't sell. Inevitably some firms will make losses, profits will tumble and there will be bankruptcies.

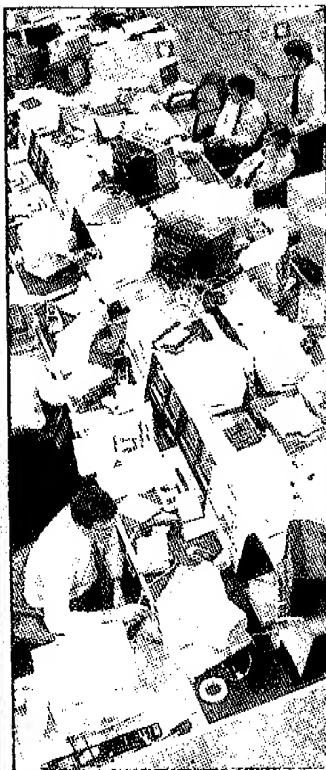
The signs of a worldwide crisis first appeared in the U.S.A. This was for certain reasons. Since World War One and even more since World War Two, the U.S.A has been central to the world economy, east or west. After the second World



War the USA attempted to stimulate growth in the world market for goods. The Marshall Plan involved investing in Western Europe and around the world. It guaranteed the U.S Ruling Class economic and political dominance. This spending and massive expansion led to a boom. But it ended suddenly in the early seventies. The biggest economic slump since the thirties followed in 1974. The world economy after a minor recovery slumped again in 1981 and in 1988 the next step seems to be coming.

The U.S. since the war has played a major role in the world economy. It, as the dominant force, has the most to gain from a boom and most to lose in a slump. Its Ruling Class along with the world's Ruling Class accepted the principles of an economist, John Maynard Keynes. He said that slumps, like that of the thirties, could be stopped. The state could intervene to reflate the economy by spending to increase demand. A knock on effect would keep the world economy moving. All parts of the Ruling Class from the U.S.S.R to Japan to Britain operated these policies.

At the end of the sixties the U.S. who had played by far the most important role, ran out of gold reserves. It cut back its investment. The artificial prop to the world economy was gone. Alongside this, inflation was



beginning to run riot. As Capitalists found it difficult to sell their goods and as a strong Working Class cost them more, individual Capitalists raised prices to claw back profits.

It was popular in 1974 to blame the Arabs for the recession. It was not an economic crisis but an oil crisis according to the Ruling Class. This racist attempt to isolate one part of the Ruling

Class as the cause was to deflect away from the basic problem.

Like the Stock Market crash in 1929 or 1987, the 1974 oil crisis was only a spark that set off the crisis earlier than expected. The Opec oil producers and the oil companies were acting like all the other parts of the Ruling Class. They were making sure they wouldn't be hurt too much by world recession.

The U.S. answer since 1974 has been twofold. Like the Ruling Class worldwide it has attacked its Working Class but alongside that.

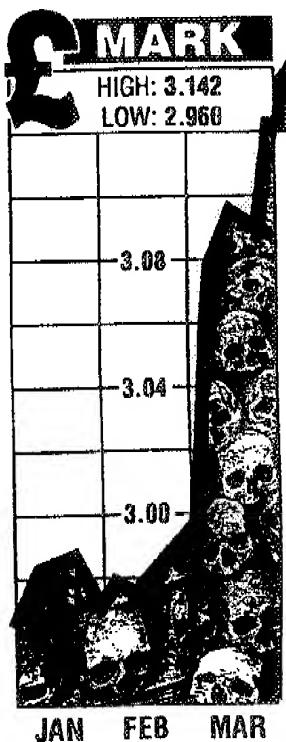
"The price of bringing inflation down without plunging the world into depression was that the U.S. maintained a fairly high level of activity with the help of a large fiscal deficit." (Jeremy Morse, Chairman of Lloyd's Bank.)

State intervention was the answer it seemed. The U.S. state was tied to the new right ideas of the "free market", it was able to pump money into military spending in the name of national security. This refluited the economy and increased demand. It did the same for the world economy.

Alongside this, advertising encouraged a consumer boom and credit to guarantee spending. North Americans stopped saving



which meant the U.S. state couldn't borrow from U.S. resources to support the economy. It had to



stronger Japanese and West German economists to bully their states into taking a leading role in reflating the world economy. The U.S. state and its section of the Ruling Class are being forced to give up power to other

The Working Class across the world has been fighting the attacks that followed the seventies. Few of us realised that the mid-eighties were the good life but now we are seeing the world economy diving into a slump, at least a recession maybe even a depression. That means a fall in



production as firms can't sell their goods and services. The Working Class face unemployment, wage cuts and worsening conditions at work and at home. It is the Working Class who always take the brunt of a recession. This is the prospect in 1988 and 1989.

Recession doesn't mean revolution though. Leftists have a tendency to rub their hands in glee at the inevitable downfall of Capitalism and it showing its contradictions. Recession, for the

borrow from abroad. By the mid eighties the U.S. was a debtor in the world. By 1987 the most powerful part of the Capitalist Ruling Class was the world's biggest debtor. Speculators realised the party was over. The international economy was slowing down.

Anything that happens in any part of the world economy effects the rest. That's why we now talk about a world economy. It wasn't just an American problem, it was a problem for the Ruling Class as whole. Speculators acted in October to force some action and to share the first pains of recession around the world.

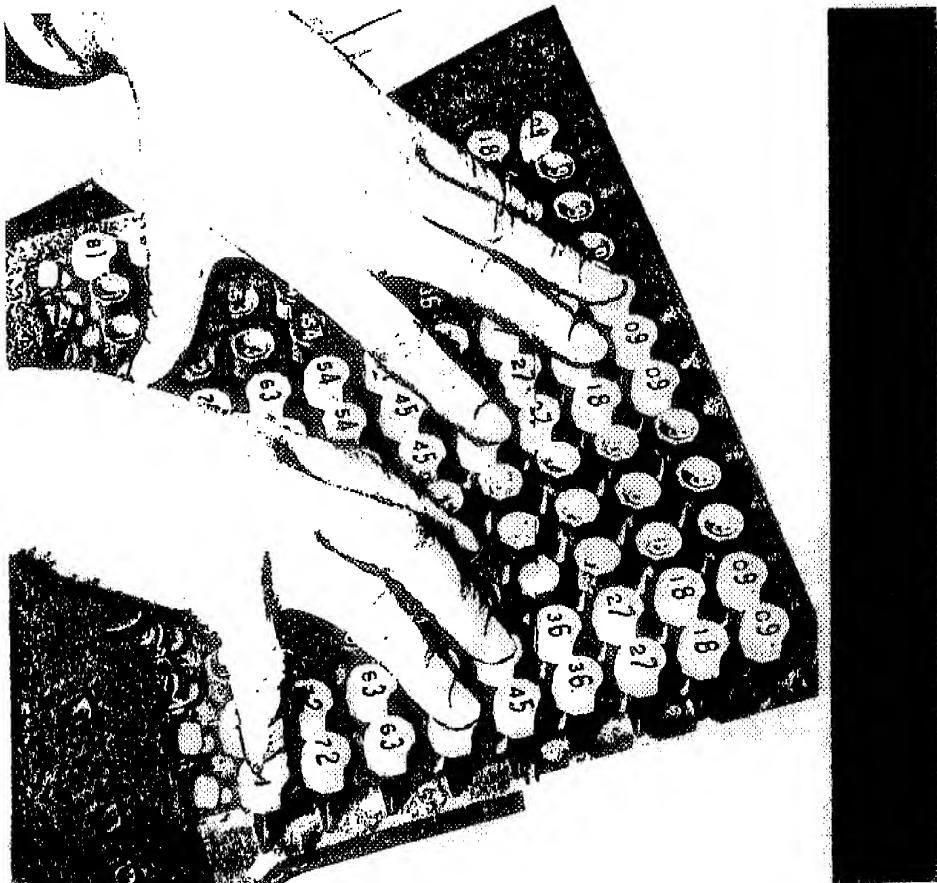
"It is also a signal to Governments that unless they pursue sounder fiscal and monetary policies, the markets will force correction of the problems in ways that Governments do not like."
(Mark Lipton, New York financier 1987)

The most powerful corporations are international. A vast amount of the goods produced in the world are sold in the U.S. If they suffer in the U.S. the effects are worldwide. If America cuts its spending that's less exports for foreign Capitalists. The recession spreads and grows.

Forces in the U.S. and worldwide wanted to see the U.S. state cut spending and to force the

sections.

For their own good, not of course ours, the most powerful in the Ruling Class have triggered the crisis now rather than later. It couldn't have been avoided forever. Such waves of recovery and recession are central to the Capitalist economic system and linked to the lurches in production and consumption caused by technological advances.



Working Class, means the class struggle gets much harder. Misery doesn't make a revolution but struggle does.

One minute the C.B.I (the Confederation of British Industry) was predicting a sharp fall in economic activity, the next it's chairman David Wrigglesworth was

has grown as austerity is pushed, whether it be in Roumanian tractor factories or South Korean Shipyards, French Railways or Spanish Docks. The recent struggles in the N.H.S, Fords, The Seamen's strike and the Mines have signalled a new mood of class

look like they will see many crucial battles fought.

The Ruling Class has one other option, if it cannot sort out its squabbles over who should take



saying it was in good shape. There is no contradiction. As the slump starts our section of the Ruling Class is in good shape to attack us. It has united much of the Middle and Ruling Classes around a 'new realism'. We have seen parts of the Working Class fight gallantly and imaginatively but they have remained isolated. The struggles have not been spread.

Yet, whilst Thatcher sees new found world power and profits to be gained off our backs, an encouraging surge of activity has blown up. Across the world over the last few years class struggle

confidence and a willingness to resist the next attacks. Already the unions are backing away from confrontation. The illusions of reformist solutions are increasingly bankrupt. If the bosses won't negotiate then who can the union talk to? Increasingly the struggle for Working Class control and a society based around fulfilling need not profit is becoming the only viable alternative to the bumps and slumps of this one.

The struggle for communism and the realisation of the power of the Working Class world wide will take time. The next few years

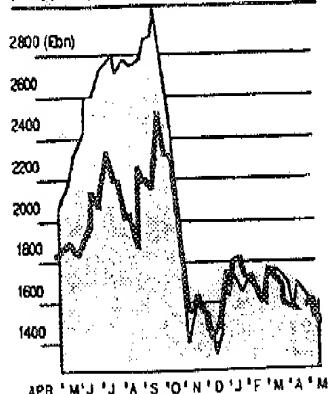
what share of the crisis; who should brutalise their Working Class the most, then individual parts of the Ruling Class may resort to war. They are united only in their desire to keep the Working Class where it is. If parts of the Ruling Class won't take their medicines then trade war in the financial markets will become military war to secure economic control and profit. For that, they'll have to blind the Working Class by nationalism and an allegiance to the British Ruling Class. There is no common bond, we have no interest in fighting their wars only our own - the class war.

"We have a long way to go - the St Petersburg index fell to zero before the Russian revolution, you know." (George Hodgson a city economist Oct'87)

JOHN BARR



Market value



CLASS WAR'S ROUGH GUIDE TO THE

LEFT

In Britain today there are numerous 'left-wing' groups and parties, and it seems a new one every month. To those of us who aren't 'into' 'lefty' groups, like others are trainspotters, and are confused and bored by the jargon and initials, here's a rough guide.

Firstly a quick run down on Marxism and Leninism!

All the Left wing groups regard themselves as Marxist, though they argue as to what Marxism really is. Much of Marxism is fine eg. 'Philosophers have only interpreted the world, the point however is to change it' and 'The emancipation of the working class is the task of the working class alone'. Marxist class and economic analysis is often also useful, but much of his support for the 'state' and 'party' is disagreeable.

All the left-wing groups also regard themselves as Leninist. Leninism relates to the politics of the Bolshevik Communist Party in Russia from roughly 1900 to 1925. Like with all 'isms' you can generalise... Leninists believe primarily in the creation of a 'party', that is the 'vanguard' (at the head) of the working class i.e. a leadership made up of the most political workers.

In a revolutionary situation, Leninists argue this party is needed to seize power from the old state, while industry becomes controlled by 'councils', hopefully

dominated by Leninists. The Party therefore sets up a Leninist State, as it is the party/leadership for and of the working class. They also call this the 'Dictatorship Of The Proletariat'. This 'Dictatorship...' can mean working class dictatorship over the old ruling

councils actually running society, organising production etc, from the bottom upwards.

As 'The party is the will of the people', the state alone can rule. Different Leninist parties argue over the exact role of 'The Workers' State', but it is clear that Leninism opposes working



Lenin



McCartney

class.. all in favour of that!, but Leninists see the 'Dictatorship...' as a state run by themselves.

Leninists see the new state as highly centralised, carrying out a programme of rationalisation and reorganisation of industry and work, for the workers. The state will also pass laws granting 'freedoms' to the people.

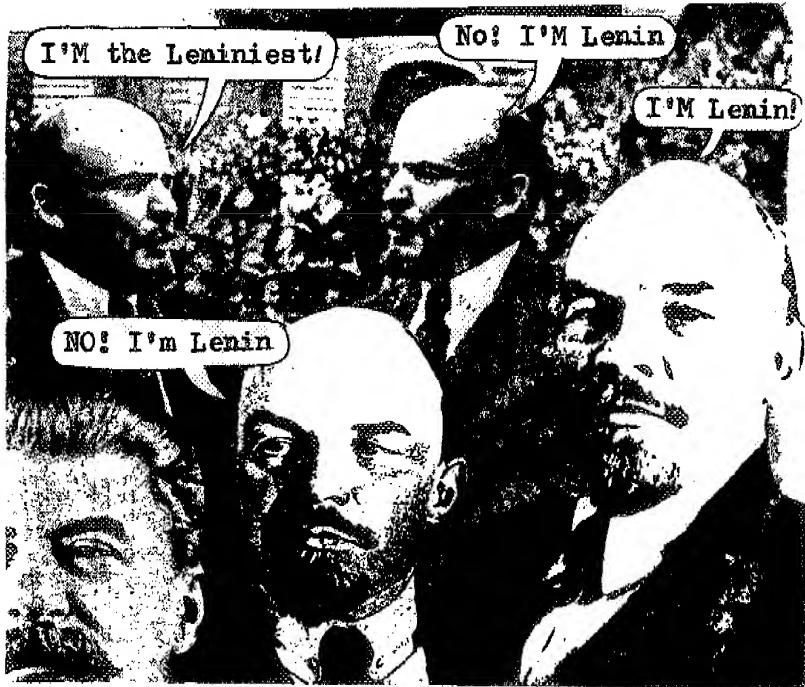
Leninists do not support the idea of workers committees or

class power in reality.

The history of the Russian revolution shows Leninism's attitude to "Workers Power". Accepting the enormous pressures on the revolution:- Invasion, civil war, the deaths of tens of thousands of revolutionaries etc, we can still clearly see how the Bolsheviks helped destroy the revolution.

If revolution is about anything, it is about class power and individual freedom, community and the fact and feeling that 'now we're in power'. It is about new ways of living, sexuality, relationships, production etc. Revolution cannot be about as Leninists argue, the efficiency of industry. Obsessed by this they attacked the workers new found power, specifically destroying the 'workers committees', the level of workers power in the revolution, underneath the Soviets. And they attacked those who tried to take 'freedom'; 'too far'. These policies helped destroy the revolutionary spirit of the Russian working class. And it didn't help industry much either. Waves of strikes hit production in the early 1920's.





When the working class no longer feel in control of their destiny the revolution has died, whatever the economic situation.

Most of today's Leninists also call themselves Trotskyists (or Trotskyites!). Trotskyism arose in opposition to Stalin around the ideas of top Bolshevik Leon Trotsky. Leninism was always opposed to genuine workers power, and following the corruption and bureaucratisation that stifled Lenin's attempts to set up a 'workers state', even Trotsky, a hard line Leninist, had to admit that there were a few problems ! Bit slow on the uptake was poor Leon. Joe Stalin's repressive state that Trotsky had helped to build, but failed to inherit, turned on him and he fled. Under Stalin millions died in prison camps and famines. Trotsky

argued that the USSR had become a 'deformed workers state'. However, some Trotskyists see the USSR as either a 'degenerated workers state' or as 'State Capitalist' i.e. where production is for profit but for the state not the capitalists.

Trotskyists, though, whatever their criticisms of the USSR, stand firmly by Lenin's ideas of the party and the state.

So having explained all that we can go onto the Parties...

The CPGB.

The Communist Party of Great Britain was founded over 60 years ago as 'The revolutionary party' in Britain. It was always small, but reached a peak of 50,000 members and 3 M.P.'s in 1945. In 1988 it has fewer than 10,000 members and it's getting fewer everyday !

The CPGB, until the 1950's, 'reflected the Moscow Line' i.e. it did what Moscow told it to do ! It was Stalinist and would hear no criticism of the USSR. This blind obedience was seen most ludicrously at the start of the 2nd World War, as it continually changed its attitude to war, as Russia's relations with Hitler shifted back and forth.

In the 1950's the CPGB adopted the theory of 'the parliamentary road to socialism' i.e. win revolution at the general election...no kidding ! Of course that's daft.

Today the CPGB is split between 'Tankies' (they're into Soviet tanks!) and the majority, a coalition of liberals, greens and feminists, overwhelmingly middle



smashing up a statue of Stalin

class. Their paper is the weekly '7 Days'. The old 'Morning Star' (which used to be called the 'Daily Worker') is still a daily though no longer a mouthpiece of the CPGB central committee but of the minority. It is printed by the SWP after its presses were sold to the 'Tits on every page' Sunday Sport. In April 1988 a new party of expelled hardliners, the Communist Campaign Group was formed.

Both the CPGB and the CCG are anti-Trotskyist but the left wing call themselves Leninists. The more talk of class struggle the more Stalinist. The non-Stalinists aren't sure if the working class still exists, but they're reading and writing long articles to try and find out !

The CPGB is dying, thank God, but is still influential. Many unions eg. The T&GWU and MSF have CPGB members in national office and local committees invariably playing a conservative role. They work in the 'Broad Left '84' group.



people destroying hammer and sickle boxer shorts in Hungary 1956

The CPGB also has influence amongst middle class intellectuals through its well produced glossy monthly 'Marxism Today'. Apart from articles arguing that the working class is disappearing and that industrial & community struggle is finished, this disgusting rag is full of adverts for £10 designer T-Shirts sporting 'revolutionary' motifs, Marxism Today's own labelled wines, champagnes and expensive foods and holidays. These middle class parasites argue 'Marxism should be fun', so they live it up while the rest of us eat the crumbs.

'Militant'

"The Militant is a paper not a party" Ha..Ha.. pull the other one ! "Militant" is the weekly paper of the Militant Tendency in the Labour Party. It is a supporters group not a party.. officially.. but any ex-'Milie' will tell you that 'Militant' is really a hardline Trotskyist party.

Militant has around 5000 members, maybe more, with, like the CPGB had, a sizeable passive support. Its strong holds are on Merseyside and in the white collar union the CPSA, working as the 'Broad Left' (without the '84 !)

They joined the Labour Party, as a tiny sect, back in the mid 1960's, using an argument of both Lenin and Trotsky that, as the Labour Party is the party of the working class (though not revolutionary) revolutionaries should join the Labour Party, as a short term infiltration to capture the best members. 25 years seems a pretty

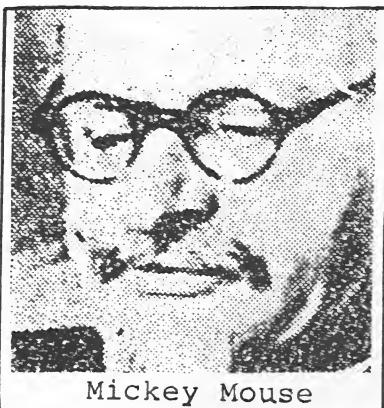
we demand...the TUC...
organise the...general
.....zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz



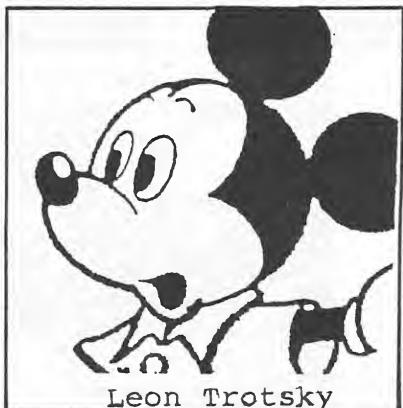
long short term though.

Militant see the main issue today as the leadership of the working class. They (quietly dropping the short term infiltration bit) argue that if they took over the Labour Party they could lead the workers to Socialism. Patronising they are ! This 'leadership' fetishism is based on Trotsky... quote "The world political situation is characterised by a historical crisis of the leadership of the proletariat". Militant don't seem to care that this was written and based on events 40 years ago !

Militant call continually for a '35 hour week' and 'nationalise the top 200 companies'. Trotsky again ! This time based on his 'Transitional Programme' where he argued that Marxists must demand what 'decadent' capitalism can't give to show that Socialism is the answer.



Mickey Mouse



Leon Trotsky

Militant messed up in Liverpool in 1984, though they claimed victory ! The council dominated by 'Workers Councillors' (Militant jargon) over spent its budget by millions. In a battle with the Government for more money they badly lost credibility as they eventually borrowed million, at high interest, off Swiss banks (!!!) after threatening to sack their entire workforce ! 'Marxists' (Militant jargon for themselves) in action !

Other Leninists eg. SWP say a revolutionary can't be a boss. Too true ! Either Militant have been taken over by Labour Party reformist ideas (which they strenuously deny) or they are just the worst sort of authoritarian state Socialists.

Militants are overwhelmingly working class and have a large 'youth' periphery. Militant members are often wildly sectarian - aggressive to those who disagree with them, but many of the younger and not fully converted are fine.

SWP

The Socialist Workers Party with its paper 'Socialist Worker', started up as the International Socialists (I.S.) in the early 1960's. Its 'guru' Tony Cliff, had previously worked with the WRP's ex-guru Gerry Healy and Militant's Ted Grant.



Tony Cliff

The I.S. was originally not strictly Leninist or Trotskyist and even had some Libertarian leanings !. Tony Cliff, however, saw in the failure of the events in France in 1968 the necessity of the 'revolutionary party' - back to Lenin. the I.S.'s politics were accordingly changed.

In the industrial unrest of the early 1970's the 95% student I.S. performed a 'turn to the class' (as they called it) i.e a massive emphasis on selling outside factories at 6.0 am before lectures. I.S. did in fact recruit hundreds of workers and peaked around 1974 when they sold 50,000 papers in election week (compared to 15-20,000 now).

Predicting, wrongly, massive industrial unrest in the mid-to late '70's, the I.S. in a thoroughly undemocratic manner - no prior consultation or conference vote, was transformed into a 'party' - the SWP. The unrest never happened, but the Anti-Nazi League and Rock against Racism, inspired by the SWP, saved their bacon. This little lot was massively successful in helping to defeat Fascism culturally and on the streets, which brought the SWP much credit and supporters.

Today the SWP has maybe 4,000 members. They have swung sharply away from their haydays and are now obsessed by 'the downturn' (what they call the minute level of industrial struggle compared to the 70's). Internal education and entrenchment have become a fetish while they wait quietly for 'the upturn'.

The SWP is mostly middle-class, lots of teachers, social workers and students.

The middle class dominance and political disagreements over what the SWP line on N.Ireland should be, led the group which became Red Action, to split from the SWP. A working class group of people, with a brave record of anti-Fascist 'activity', they argue that the SWP (and in practice all 'revolutionary parties') have been taken over and are run by middle

THE LENINIEST

incorporating MILITANTER - Than - Thou



SUPPORT THE CAUSE!

WHICH CAUSE? Our Cause, ANY CAUSE! We support any cause through which we may possibly increase our membership. If YOU become lucky enough to be engaged in any form of Industrial dispute, victimisation or Police Brutality please contact us for Instructions.

DEFEND THE CLASS!

WHICH CLASS? The Middle Class! We DEMAND your support because we have discovered the CORRECT theory and Ideology.

NO PARTIES!

We are NOT a Party, but a CLIQUE, since the word "Party" has been associated in the past with FUN, an activity frowned upon in correct ideological groupings.

FOLLOW THE LEADER

the paper of

Socialist Bandwagon

class intellectuals and offer working class people nothing. Their pamphlet, on why they split, is well worth a read!

The SWP used to have a reputation of being 'human' compared to the solemn dourness of most 'revolutionaries'. With the 'downturn' mentality, however, 'members' have become more serious and arrogant.

This arrogant 'holier-than-thou', 'We're right, you're wrong' disease is common throughout all left groups. This contempt of all who disagree with them particularly afflicts 'freshers' (first year students fresh from their mother's apron strings), and 'old hacks' (a hack being a boring old fart whose boring life is dominated by his party - a social inadequate!) In fact to get down to basics, sexual repression - the inability to form relationships and to enjoy yourself seems to play a large part in the reason people join the socially supportive 'parties' (especially for students).

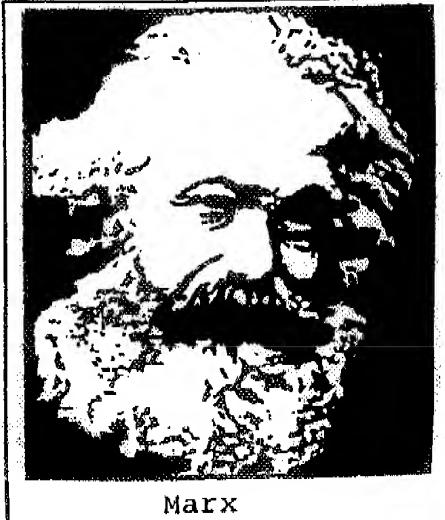
Finally, the SWP probably holds the distinction for having the largest ex-membership, indicative of the offputting nature of its internal organisation to working

class people.

The RCP.

The RCP, with its paper 'The Next Step', is the newest 'big' group having maybe 200 members (very strict entry using exams etc.) but around 2000 'supporters'. They were split from the SWP in the 1970's.

They argue, unlike the SWP, that the Labour Party must be fought here and now. The SWP criticise



Marx

Labour but are in a corner, as they are also trying to recruit Labour Party dissidents and don't want to put anybody off! The RCP see the SWP as too 'workerist' i.e. more interested in strikes than theory and see hard political arguing as their way to 'forge' the revolutionary party.

They use the issues of Ireland and racism, with their 'front' groups, The Irish Freedom Movement and Workers Against Racism, to show up the left's very real inadequacies in fighting back. Their paper while very boring, has some interesting analysis.

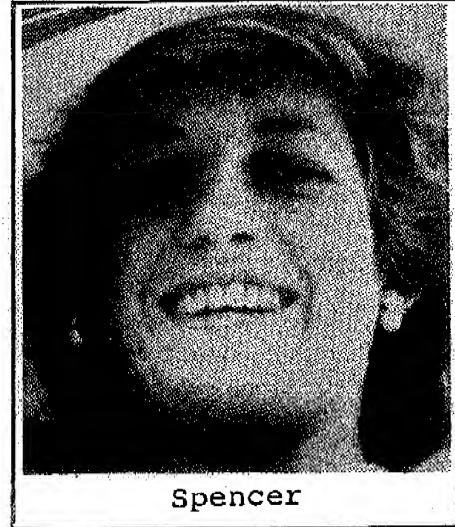
The hardest workers (I didn't say working class!) on the left, they have mass fly posting down to a fine art. They are generally impossible to talk with normally, being very intense, serious and 'evangelical'. They will follow you down the street demanding your opinion on this or that - the Left's 'Jehovahs Witnesses'!

Their politics are at the very Left of 'The Left'. However their 'practice' is often totally unbearable. They seem to have cornered the young, student, intellectual anti-Labour market led, as they are by the youthful professor Frank Riichards, they have created a sort of new designer, yuppyish, revolutionary politics.

There are dozens of other smaller groups. Here's a selection ...

The Revolutionary Communist Group, with its paper 'Fight Racism, Fight Imperialism!' is an almost Stalinist group who argue that the traditional working class has been 'bought off' by Capitalism and therefore 'oppressed' groups will be the basis of revolution eg. Black youth, Irish Republicans.

Main activity is the City



Spencer



Anti-Apartheid group with its '24 hour non stop picket' outside South Africa House and the Viraj Mendis anti deportation campaign. They are always friendly.. beware ! Lurking behind City AA and V.M.C is the RCG with its dogmatic, neo Stalinist politics.

The Worker's Revolutionary Party (WRP) with its daily (yes it's true !) paper 'Newsline' was big in the 1970's, then it was the largest working class left group. Best known for their incessant chanting of 'Call a General Strike Now!', whatever the issue or circumstances. It's internal politics became totally rotten by the early 1980's, with sexual abuse and violence commonplace by senior against younger members. 'Horizontal Recruitment'- using sex to get people to join though in every party was especially bad.

WHERE IS G. HEALY?



Ex-leader refuses to answer charges

Healy's Revolutionary Party

Healy announces He

Radio report wrong

Exposure

Detainee

The WRP has now in 1988 become 4 groups. WRP (1) with its still daily Newsline (how do they do it !!!, infact it's subsidised by Libya, Syria ect.) The WRP (2) with a weekly 'Worker's Press'. The International Communist Party, which got the youth wing. And the newest one, the Marxist Party with the disgusting Gerry Healy and upper class actress Vanessa Redgrave. This group owns Trotsky's death mask !! having paid thousands for it a few years ago.

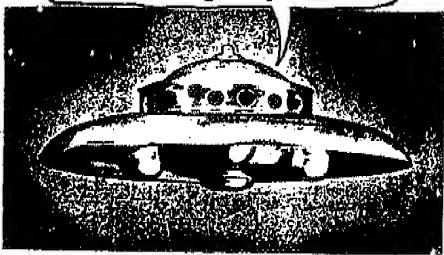
All four groups have leaderships of extremely dubious character with proven past crimes, though

the 'Worker's Press' mob are the best of a bad lot paying lip service to the 'errors, mistakes and abuses' of the old WRP.

Best of the rest are a classic called the Posadists after their guru Posadas (a pen name). This tiny Trot sect are totally 'way out'.

They believe that UFO's will bring Marxism-Leninism to Earth. They argue that if UFO's exist, as they say they do, then the extra-terrestrials must be Marxist-Leninists, because it is the highest level of scientific thought and so only Marxist-Leninist planets could produce UFO's etc. etc..

We'll keep the red flag flying here!



Their paper Red Flag is basically written by their guru. However he is long dead but luckily whilst alive did 50 years worth of tapes of his beliefs and, yes, they still print them as new !

And best of all these loonies are in the Labour Party !!.

In 1988 people are, whether we like it or not, going to come into contact with some of these groups at work, in strikes or in campaigns. Our attitude must not be mindless sectarianism, which is rampant among the Left groups themselves. While we have major disagreements with these groups and some day they might become a direct enemy, now and for a long while to come, there is nothing to gain from petty bickering.

As it's said (not very well to my



mind !) in another article in Heavy Stuff No.2, 'attacks' on the Left are counter productive. They can in fact turn sympathisers of groups into supporters and create a siege mentality in that group. The article's suggestion of witty graffiti is spot on.

One thing that shouldn't be forgotten is that sooner or later (hopefully !), hundreds, then thousands (hold on there ! ed.) of 'lefties' will come round to our way of thinking. We should suss out the good from the bad members of groups and argue not abuse. There will always be dozens of individuals in those groups who are good people.

To me the best attitude to the Left comes from the conclusions of the Russian Libertarian/Anarchist movement drawn up in 1925.

In their manifesto for a new movement, they accepted the reactionary role Leninists played in the revolution but inside of whining and whinging about 'how bad' they were, they argued the fault was on the Libertarians' side. They argued if they had got their message across better and if their movement had been better organised, more coherent and better based in the working class then the Leninists would never have been able to take power.

So there you go..
Leninism in a nutshell

GLYN RHYS

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"Our tip for the top" - SPORTING TIMES

"Highly disturbing" - LONDON EVENING STANDARD